Amendments To The Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1 between the Title and the first line:

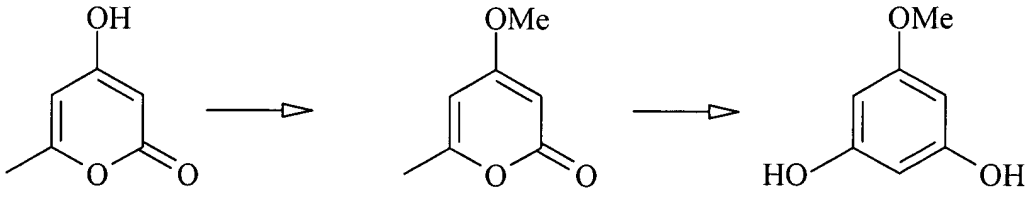
This application is a 371 national stage application of International (PCT) Application No. PCT/EP04/011970, filed on October 22, 2004, that has priority benefit of European Patent Application No. 03024344.8, filed on October 24, 2003.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

This object is achieved according to the invention by the method of the invention ~~method claimed in Claim 1~~.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 6 to 15 with the following amended paragraph:

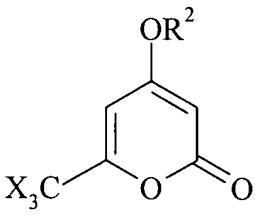
The method of the invention is surprising because it is known that 4-hydroxypyran-2-one cannot be converted into the open-chain tricarbonyl compound by reaction with sodium methanolate but, on the contrary, as shown in the reaction equation below is firstly methylated on the hydroxyl group and then the pyranone ether is converted into a phloroglucinol derivative (Effenberger, F., et al., Chem. Ber. 1984, 117, 3270–3279).



It was thus not possible to expect the ring opening resulting in the method of the invention. Tetsuro S. et al. disclose the formation of 6-tribromo-4-methoxypyran-2- one as unwanted byproduct of a bromination reaction of 4-methoxy-6-methylpyran-2-one with N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) in a yield of only 5 percent.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 27 to 33, with the following amended paragraph:

The invention likewise encompasses compounds of the formula:



III,

in which X is in each case independently of one another F, Cl or Br, and in which R^2 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, allyl or benzyl, with the exception of the compound in which X is bromine and R^2 is methyl.